

Weekly Column for July 17, 2008

With just two days separating us from the inaugural Troy Pig Out, today would be a wonderful day to talk about all the exciting events taking place this weekend. Unfortunately, I'm going to make you click here to do that, and get a run down of what is happening.

That's because earlier today the City held a press conference with Senator Joe Bruno to announce significant funding for the redevelopment of the Hudson River waterfront and the City Hall site. The announcement of this funding from the Senator came at a time when he was just hours from retiring from the job he has held for 32 years. I do not believe we will ever be able to thank him appropriately.

Among the projects that Troy received funding for today are:

- \$4.7 million to redevelop the City Hall site to include park space and a 200-car underground parking garage. The roof of this facility will be a park, with grass, fountains, and play areas. Use your imagination. Best of all, it will improve access to the Hudson River.
- \$500,000 to construct a Troy Maritime Welcome Center to provide amenities that will include showers, restrooms, laundry facilities, and an information kiosk to encourage boaters to spend time in Troy.
- \$750,000 to construct a fifteen-foot wide waterfront esplanade to reinforce the existing sea wall and promote usage of the waterfront. Docks and boating facilities will be extended as part of this project.
- \$500,000 to improve the existing band shell in Riverfront Park and build a new amphitheater.
- \$1.05 million to improve the Ingalls Avenue boat launch, including repairs to the launch, retaining wall, sidewalks, dock and fishing pier, and the construction of a new boaters facility with restrooms and amenities.
- \$500,000 for the American Rock Salt pile to move to a more industrial site in southern Troy.

The total cost of these projects is \$8 million, of which Senator Bruno has earmarked \$6 million to accomplish all of the above.

Last year, we made an announcement that we would attempt to move City Hall to the Verizon Building on Sixth Avenue. As everyone knows, the issue became a political football and the project has stalled. At the time of the announcement, we spoke quite often that our original intent was to move out of this building without any direct effect on the taxpayers.

Today's announcement changes much of that original plan. We now have the ability to solve many different issues, and fulfill the wishes of many different people. I was

extremely happy that City Council President Clem Campana stood by my side today and pledged the support to the City Council in moving these projects forward. Hard work and creative thinking can now be teamed up with this funding to create a new legacy in downtown Troy that generations of Trojans will be able to enjoy. It is time to roll up our sleeves, work together, and get this done.

Stay tuned over the next few months, there will be much more to come.

Have a great weekend, and please stop by the Troy Pig Out on Saturday or Sunday.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy